

Application Serial No. 10/700,612
Reply to Office Action dated May 18, 2010
Amendment dated August 17, 2010

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action mailed May 18, 2010. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, and 14 are pending in the Application, and claim 14 stands rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 13 were allowed. Claim 14 has been amended herein. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,322,706 to Merkel et al. Claim 14 has been amended herein to recite that the method of dispensing liquid material includes "rapidly varying the pressure of the pressurized air at a periodic rate while dispensing the liquid material to cause the liquid material to move in a desired pattern as the attenuated continuous stream." Support for this amendment to claim 14 can be found with reference to the Application at paragraph 0025. Accordingly, no new matter is added by the amendment to claim 14.

Applicants further assert that amended claim 14 is in condition for allowance because Merkel '706 fails to disclose, or even suggest, rapidly varying the pressure of the pressurized air at a periodic rate to cause dispensed liquid material to move in a desired pattern. Rather, Merkel '706 is directed to a method of monitoring and controlling the motion of a moving coating material. Merkel '706 only contemplates adjusting the pressure of air emanating from jets 24 as part of a feedback control, in response to a sensed change in the dispensed pattern, to maintain a desired shape and

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motion of the pattern of adhesive fiber ejected from central opening 22 in the nozzle 16. (See, for example, Merkel '706 at col. 6, lines 31-62.) Figures 2-3 of Merkel '706 illustrate how the pattern width and rate of swirl changes as the pressure of air changes. These figures depict how the width of the dispensed pattern of adhesive can be changed by maintaining the air pressure and varying the pressure of the adhesive. Merkel '706, therefore, does not contemplate rapidly varying the pressure of the air at a periodic rate to cause the liquid material to move in a desired pattern, as set forth in claim 14. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 14 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any matter requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the issue may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due as a result of this communication. However, if any fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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